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FLOOR DEBATE

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of the EPIC Fund to provide the dollars.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And that...and you qualify by producing a certain number of gallons of ethanol. Isn't that true?

SENATOR DIERKS: That's true, although I think that all these plants that are struggling to build have...have gotten their own fund raising effort to establish their plants.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And the final question I want to ask of you, there also is no requirement in the bill that a certain number of new employees be retained, is there?

SENATOR DIERKS: Retained or employed?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Employed, new employees.

SENATOR DIERKS: Not that I'm aware of.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, since you brought up the other or suggested it, there is nothing that talks about current employees that have to be retained, is there?

SENATOR DIERKS: I don't think so.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Dierks. The only thing we're looking at, from the way I read the bill, primarily is the ability of the plant to produce ethanol, but whatever the basis is it's a bad policy. There is nothing in the bill, as written, that would redound to the benefit of the state and the taxpayers. It takes money out of the treasury. Somebody has to put it back in. I'm going to repeat over and over and over ethanol cannot be a viable basis of a viable industry without subsidies. If you take away the subsidies, ethanol is a thing of the past. Contrary to what has been suggested by people who have not paid much attention to what is going on in the real world, ethanol will never replace this country's...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...reliance on fossil fuels, never. Ethanol